

Message

From: Godet, Nan [godet.nan@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/23/2021 1:18:03 PM
To: Ota, Allan [Ota.Allan@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Verifying FOIA Assignment for EPA-R9-2021-002952 - no records in our program files

Flag: Follow up

Hi, Allan:

No...the Huddle is for the WTR FOIA Team so that we can chart the progress of FOIA

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From: Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 3:26 PM
To: Rao, Kate <Rao.kate@epa.gov>; Blake, Ellen <Blake.Ellen@epa.gov>; Ziegler, Sam <Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov>; Godet, Nan <godet.nan@epa.gov>
Cc: Hagler, Tom <Hagler.Tom@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Verifying FOIA Assignment for EPA-R9-2021-002952 - no records in our program files
Importance: High

I hope the information from our regional records center was helpful. Was I supposed to be on this huddle? I did not have anything on my Teams calendar if that was the case... I know there have been Teams calendar issues, and this would not be the first meeting I've missed because of a Teams glitch.

-Allan

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Allan Ota
Oceanographer | Regional Ocean Dumping Program Coordinator | FAC-COR II
Ocean Dumping Program - Dredging and Sediment Management Team
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Water Division
Mail Code: WTR-2-2
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

415-972-3476 office
ota.allan@epa.gov

If you have more than 20 MB worth of attachments to send to me,
Please contact me first by email to make arrangements to share the files.

"Live simply, so that others may simply live." – Saint (Mother) Teresa

From: Rao, Kate <Rao.kate@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov>; Blake, Ellen <Blake.Ellen@epa.gov>; Ziegler, Sam <Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov>; Godet,

Nan <godet.nan@epa.gov>

Cc: Hagler, Tom <Hagler.Tom@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Verifying FOIA Assignment for EPA-R9-2021-002952 - no records in our program files

Hi Allan.

We had our FOIA huddle today and we were wondering about the status of the records from the federal records center. Did the FRC find any possible records and boxes will be sent to the Regional Office?

Thanks. Kate

Kate Rao

Groundwater Protection Section (WTR 4-2)

USEPA Region 9

75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

tel: (415) 972-3533 / fax: (415) 947-3549

From: Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 3:58 PM

To: Blake, Ellen <Blake.Ellen@epa.gov>; Ziegler, Sam <Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov>; Godet, Nan <godet.nan@epa.gov>

Cc: Rao, Kate <Rao.kate@epa.gov>; Hagler, Tom <Hagler.Tom@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Verifying FOIA Assignment for EPA-R9-2021-002952 - no records in our program files

Importance: High

The request has already been sent; the response from the records team usually happens within a week... we'll see.

-Allan

=====

Allan Ota

Oceanographer | Regional Ocean Dumping Program Coordinator | FAC-COR II

Ocean Dumping Program - Dredging and Sediment Management Team

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

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From: Blake, Ellen <Blake.Ellen@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 3:19 PM

To: Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov>; Ziegler, Sam <Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov>; Godet, Nan <godet.nan@epa.gov>

Cc: Rao, Kate <Rao.kate@epa.gov>; Hagler, Tom <Hagler.Tom@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Verifying FOIA Assignment for EPA-R9-2021-002952 - no records in our program files

Thanks Allan. This will be helpful to Tom Hagler (our FOIA project manager). No need to reach out to the FRC now. Tom will schedule a kick-off call for this FOIA and will talk to you about where records, if there are any, might be.
Ellen

From: Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 3:16 PM

To: Ziegler, Sam <Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov>; Godet, Nan <godet.nan@epa.gov>

Cc: Rao, Kate <Rao.kate@epa.gov>; Blake, Ellen <Blake.Ellen@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Verifying FOIA Assignment for EPA-R9-2021-002952 - no records in our program files

I had to check with Brian Ross, another senior scientist in our team, to confirm my findings – that is to say, we are not aware of any records in our program files and, in particular, the Regional Archives located in the Region 9 office, dating back to the period between May 1973 and January 1977, containing correspondence and barging report associated with ocean dumping permits issued by EPA Region 9 to Montrose Chemical Corporation for dumping of DDT products in the vicinity of Santa Catalina Island and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. I will put in a request to locate any records in the Federal Archives facility in San Bruno; typically, these requests can take up to one week for a response, and if there are any records found, there would be additional time for transfer to the regional office.

I started at EPA Region 9 in November 1989 and I believe Brian Ross transferred down to Region 9 from the Alaska office in 1991, so there is an absence of direct knowledge on our part and we were not aware of any second-hand knowledge of the existence of ocean dumping permits for DDT. Our first knowledge of any DDT dumping in the Southern California Bight was a result of an LA Times article last year.

I will let you know if any records remain in the Federal Archives (in San Bruno); generally, records are destroyed after 10 years of storage, but we might get lucky!... I hope this is helpful for now.

-Allan

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Allan Ota

Oceanographer | Regional Ocean Dumping Program Coordinator | FAC-COR II

Ocean Dumping Program - Dredging and Sediment Management Team

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Water Division

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From: Ziegler, Sam <Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Godet, Nan <godet.nan@epa.gov>; Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov>
Cc: Rao, Kate <Rao.kate@epa.gov>; Blake, Ellen <Blake.Ellen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Verifying FOIA Assignment for EPA-R9-2021-002952

Nan:

If there are any records concerning ocean dumping we would be the section that would have them and Allan would be the subject matter expert.

Sam Ziegler | Wetlands Section Manager | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 | Water Division | (415) 972-3399 | ziegler.sam@epa.gov

From: Godet, Nan <godet.nan@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 1:42 PM
To: Ziegler, Sam <Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov>; Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov>
Cc: Rao, Kate <Rao.kate@epa.gov>; Blake, Ellen <Blake.Ellen@epa.gov>
Subject: Verifying FOIA Assignment for EPA-R9-2021-002952

Dear Sam and Allan (I am sending this for your input also because I am not certain Sam is around, and it relates to ocean dumping):

I am seeking your input on a FOIA I just received. At this stage I am only seeking information to make a proper assignment. Please reply to the following items:

- Does your office have responsive records?
- If yes, who is the Subject Matter Expert (SME)?
- If not, do you have information on which office or division may have records?

Please do not work on this FOIA until it has been assigned. Also, please do not forward outside Water Division since each division will need to make its own proper assignment. Once assigned, the FOIA Office will schedule a Kick-off meeting/call to discuss roles and procedures.

See attached and summary below.

Also, please do not forward this email or include ccs other than the SME.

Due to the time sensitive nature of this request, I ask that you reply back to me within one business day.

Thanks.

Nan

From: R9FOIAOffice <R9FOIAOffice@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 1:29 PM
To: Godet, Nan <godet.nan@epa.gov>; Rao, Kate <Rao.kate@epa.gov>

Cc: Hagler, Tom <Hagler.Tom@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: FOIA Assignment for EPA-R9-2021-002952

WTR added for responsive records

From: R9FOIAOffice

Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 4:17 PM

To: Chan, Elaine <Chan.Elaine@epa.gov>; Tran, Peter <tran.peter@epa.gov>

Cc: Krauss, Gregory <Krauss.Gregory@epa.gov>; Oehler, Stephanie <Oehler.Stephanie@epa.gov>; Lesch, Sandra <lesch.sandra@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: FOIA Assignment for EPA-R9-2021-002952

**STOP: Do Not Begin Work on This FOIA.
We'll Set Up a Kick-Off Meeting First**

Division FOIA Coordinator: Send PM names of SMEs, managers and ORC attorney for kick-off meeting.

FOIA Project Manager (PM): Schedule Kick-off meeting asap once SMEs, managers and ORC attorney are identified.

Kick-Off meeting will cover:

- **Scope of FOIA & Potential issues**
- **Clarification/extensions**
- **Fees**
- **Locations of records**
- **Outlook custodians and search parameters**
- **Timing**
- **Next Steps - who does what**

Fee Limit is \$25.00

From: admin@foiaonline.gov <admin@foiaonline.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 3:53 PM

To: R9FOIAOffice <R9FOIAOffice@epa.gov>

Subject: FOIA Assignment for EPA-R9-2021-002952

You have been assigned to the FOIA request - EPA-R9-2021-002952. Once logged into FOIAonline, you can navigate to this case by following this link: [View](#). Additional details for this item are as follows:

- Tracking Number: EPA-R9-2021-002952
- Requester: Mr. Charles J. McCreery
- Request Track: Simple
- Submitted Date: 03/05/2021
- Due Date: 04/02/2021
- Description:
- Short Description: Copies of correspondence and barging reports associated with ocean dumping permits issued by EPA Region 9 to Montrose Chemical Corporation between May 1, 1973 and January 20, 1977 under section 102 (33 u.S.c. S 1412) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (t\IPRSA

- Description: Ocean Dumping Region 9 Montrose Chemical Corp. May 1, 1973 and Jan. 20, 1977 Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), Santa Catalina Island and Channel Islands National Marine.